

REGULAR MEETING - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2010
PLAZA CONFERENCE ROOM AT CITY HALL - 500 CASTRO STREET
7:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Bryant.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members: Jac Siegel and Chair Ronit Bryant.

Committee Members Absent: Margaret Abe-Koga.

City Staff Present: Michael Fuller, Public Works Director; Linda Forsberg, Business and Internal Services Manager; Lori Topley, Solid Waste Program Manager; and Steve Attinger, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – None.

4. MINUTES APPROVAL

Motion – M/S Siegel/Bryant – Carried 2-0; Abe-Koga absent – Approve the minutes of the June 2, 2010 Regular meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 RESIDENTIAL ENERGY ASSESSMENT AND UPGRADE PROGRAM

Staff introduced the item by reviewing previous City Council and Council Environmental Sustainability Committee actions regarding the creation of the Residential Energy Assessment and Upgrade Program, including:

- Council allocation of \$343,000 in Federal Energy Efficiency and Conversation Block Grant funds for such a program (May 2009); and
- Committee review and comment on the proposed structure of the program (June 2010).

Staff then summarized the key components of its recommended approach for implementing an energy assessment and upgrade program.

A Committee member noted an absence of metrics that a layperson can use to understand the results/benefits of participating in the program. Staff responded that persons participating in in-home assessments will be provided with some estimates regarding energy cost savings and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions that will be generated from certain energy-conservation measures they undertake.

The Committee member then asked about the cost of the initial in-residence energy assessments. Staff noted the benefits of the in-home assessments extend beyond the estimated retail value of the products installed during the visit. The value of the educational component of the visit and the opportunity to have residents commit to making additional energy-conservation improvements in the future must also be considered and taken into account.

The Committee member inquired if staff anticipated difficulty in getting residents to agree to having strangers come into their homes to perform the assessment. Staff responded that problems are not anticipated because residents will self-select to participate in the program and that the program outreach efforts should help to alleviate such concerns.

The Committee member advised staff to track participants' experience with seeking energy-conservation rebates from PG&E—his experience has not been good. Staff will track participants' experience and satisfaction with pursuing financial incentives from PG&E.

Another Committee member asked staff to ensure all local schools can participate in the outreach to schools portion of the program and referred to an ICLEI model that she had read about.

The Committee member asked staff about the status of the ABAG green contractor's web site. Staff suggested the information may be available on the energy upgrade California web site.

The Committee member noted her experience with the on-line PG&E energy use audit was not good. Staff provided a brief explanation of how the on-line assessment being developed for the City program differs from the PG&E audit and should result in a better experience.

A Committee member suggested that the staff report being prepared for Council specifically address the cost of the in-home assessment versus the cost of the supplies.

The Committee member shared his perception that it has taken a long time to get the program under way. Staff responded that the program staff had been initially working on had to be restructured as a result of the CaliforniaFirst program being unfunded.

The discussion was then opened to the public for comments.

Julie Lovins indicated her support of the proposed program, particularly the use of paid auditors and the follow-up that will be done with program participants.

The public comment portion of the discussion was closed.

A Committee member suggested the report to Council focus on metrics, a breakdown of costs and specific results anticipated.

Another Committee member suggested the Council report include a cost/benefit analysis and that prior to launch, the program web site should be reviewed by someone not familiar with the program to ensure it is intuitive and useful.

She further noted her support for the inclusion of the City's Community Outreach Program in the program's outreach effort and the school competition component of the proposed program. She also provided staff with a copy of an apartment owner's magazine she thought might be of interest to staff.

A Committee member asked staff to be clear in the report to Council about if the proposed cost and energy savings are calculated on an annual or lifetime basis.

Staff advised the Committee that the proposed program was scheduled to be presented to the City Council at its January 25, 2011 meeting.

5.2 SINGLE-USE, CARRY-OUT BAG UPDATE

Staff updated the Committee on activities in Santa Clara County related to single-use, carry-out bags and reported the State legislation that would have resulted in a State-wide bag law failed to pass the Senate. Several jurisdic-

tions in Santa Clara County and around the State are now moving ahead on their own.

A Committee member asked if the City of San Jose will be sued if it takes action on December 14, 2010 to ban plastic single-use bags. Staff responded the City of San Jose may be sued. Staff is monitoring actions locally and across the State to determine how best to proceed.

Staff further noted that the City of Palo Alto has a limited ban in place and cannot extend the current ban beyond seven stores without completing an EIR.

The discussion was opened to the public for comment.

Julie Lovins spoke regarding compact fluorescent light disposal.

The public comment portion of the discussion was closed.

A Committee member said that she may attend the December 14, 2010 meeting in San Jose at the request of "Save the Bay" and that she is looking forward to the kickoff of the Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) program in Mountain View. She suggested that store cashiers be made aware of the program. She further suggested that City staff work with the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce to make it and its members aware of the BYOB program.

Another Committee member asked about the status of restrictions on Styrofoam food containers. The Committee Chair responded that the County Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission (RWRC) is currently working on that issue.

6. COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND REPORTS

A Committee member said that he will be interested in zero waste in 2011. Staff responded that as a part of the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan, a Zero Waste Plan will be prepared. Consultant assistance proposals are due to the City tomorrow and staff anticipates bringing the consultant's contract to the Council for approval in January. The Zero Waste Plan is expected to be completed in the summer 2011.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

LF/6/PSD/701-12-08-10mn^